

Follow-up to major intergovernmental processes

Background Note for the ECESA Plus Principals Meeting 10 July 2017, UN Headquarters, New York

1. High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) and Voluntary National Reviews

The High-level political forum on sustainable development will take place from 10 to 19 July 2017. As decided in General Assembly resolution 70/299, the them

following SDGs and their interlinkages, including, if appropriate, with other goals: -depth reviews of the

- Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
- Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

The first week will discuss all 6 SDGs (1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14) as well as SDG17. In addition, sessions on

Governments, the UN system, IGOs, the Major Groups and other stakeholders - individually or in partnership – to advance the implementation of SDG 14 and related targets.

In the Conference, many delegations stressed that effective follow-up to the Ocean Conference will be critical to ensuring that all nations are working together to meet their SDG14 implementation obligations, inclusive of science, business and

States. The meeting will also identify priority outreach opportunities for the group to connect to scientists and experts in other fora or meetings.

5. Financing for Development

ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up

The second ECOSOC FfD Forum was held on 22-25 May 2017. The Forum included: a one-day special high-level meeting of ECOSOC with the World Bank, IMF, WTO and UNCTAD; ministerial round tables, which provided a high-level platform for sharing national experiences in mainstreaming the Addis Agenda into national development strategies; a series of thematic expert discussions; updates from other relevant fora; and a stakeholder dialogue.

The 2017 Forum was considered a success both in terms of its outcome and proceedings. The annual report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development (IATF) provided the major substantive input to the Forum, and served as a basis for the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations. The 26- paragraph outcome document, which was agreed in a timely manner, reaffirms key elements of the Addis Agenda and contains commitments on policies and actions. It also mandated the IATF to carry out substantive work in eight focus areas, and to include findings of this work in its 2018 report. The Forum's intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations serve as an important input to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

The FfD Forum is establishing itself as an inclusive platform for discussion on a broad range of issues in Financing for Development. Participants at the 2017 Forum looked forward to future meetings, and called for utilizing the Forum as a platform for sustained dialogue on concrete national experiences in implementing the Addis Agenda.

Report of the Inter-agency Task Force on FfD

The Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development (IATF) published its first substantive report in April 2017, in advance of the second ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up. The report was well received by all stakeholders, in particular by Member States. It identified progress in all seven action areas of the Addis Agenda. However, a difficult global environment has impeded individual and collective efforts, and many implementation gaps remain. Both economic factors – such as low commodity prices and low trade growth, and volatile capital flows – and political and environmental factors – including large-scale humanitarian crises– impacted national implementation efforts.

In response, the Task Force proposed a combination of national and international actions to change the trajectory of the global economy and support countries in achieving the SDGs, including through long-term and quality investments in sustainable development. Recognizing that growth alone will not suffice, the report also put forward a number of options to directly ameliorate living conditions of the poor and vulnerable, including by addressing financing challenges related to social protection floors.

In assessing progress in the action areas, the Task Force found that many countries have started to bring their implementation efforts together into coherent financing frameworks. Noting that national efforts alone will not suffice, it also called on the international community to meet its commitments on multilaterale,.

The IMF, OECD, UN and World Bank established the Platform for Collaboration on Tax in April 2016. The Platform aims to better support governments by providing a structured and transparent framework for (i) producing concrete joint outputs and deliverables under an agreed work plan; (ii) strengthening dynamic interactions between standard setting, capacity building and technical assistance; and (iii) sharing information on activities more systematically.

At the request of the G20, the Platform prepared, in 2016, a joint report on “Enhancing the Effectiveness of External Support in Building Tax Capacity in Developing Countries” and an update on its activities in 2017. The Platform is currently working on a series of toolkits to address selected tax issues of particular relevance to developing countries.

The Platform is also working on organizing its first global conference, to be held at UNHQ in New York on 14-16 February 2018, under the theme “Taxation and the SDGs”. Discussions will be structured around five thematic areas: 1) domestic resource mobilization and the State; 2) the role of taxation in supporting sustainable economic growth, investment and trade; 3) tax and the social dimension: addressing poverty, inequality and health; 4) tax capacity development; and 5) international tax cooperation.

6. Statistics

IAEG follow up

The Statistical Commission of ECOSOC, at its 48th session in March 2017, adopted the global SDG indicator framework for the follow-up and review of progress towards achieving the SDGs. The global indicator framework was developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators

significant gaps, challenges and progress made.

The UN World Data Forum

The first United Nations World Data Forum took place in Cape Town, South Africa, on 15-18 January 2017, hosted by the Government of South Africa and Statistics South Africa, with support from UNSD acting as Secretariat. The UN World Data Forum was agreed by the UN Statistical Commission based on a recommendation by the UN Secretary General's Independent Expert and Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (A/72/55) (en) (D,051.92 reV