



Economic and Social Council

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Forum on financing for development follow-up
New York, 18-20 April 2016

Information note prepared by the President of the Economic and Social Council on arrangements for the 2016 Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up

I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly in its resolution 69/313 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development established an annual Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up with universal, intergovernmental participation, to be launched during the Council's current cycle. The General Assembly in the AAAA also decided that the forum's modalities of participation would be those utilized at the international conferences on financing for development. The forum would consist of up to five days, one of which would be the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), as well as additional institutional and other stakeholders depending on the priorities and scope of the meeting; up to four days would be dedicated to discussing the follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. By its resolution 70/192, the General Assembly further defined the modalities of the forum and encouraged the President of the Economic and Social Council, in collaboration with the Secretary-General, to produce an information note regarding arrangements for the meeting of the forum in 2016. The present note is prepared in response to this request and should be read in conjunction with the concept note on the modalities for the 2016 ECOSOC forum on financing for development follow-up.¹

¹ See http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Modalities_for_the_2016_ECOSOC_FFD_Forum.pdf.



II. Organizational arrangements

A. Dates and venue

3. In accordance with ECOSOC decision 2016/210, the 2016 forum will be held from Monday, 18 April, to Wednesday, 20 April 2016. All meetings of the forum will be held at the Trusteeship Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

B. Overall theme

4. Pursuant to ECOSOC decision 2016/211, the overall theme of the forum will be: “Financing for sustainable development: follow-up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda”.

C. Rules of procedure

5. It is proposed that the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 69/313 and 70/192 and any decisions to be adopted by the Council, be applied to the meetings of the forum. In case of any contradiction between the rules of procedure and the relevant provisions of the above resolutions and decisions, the later will take precedence.

D. Schedule of meetings and organization of work

6. The meetings of the forum will be chaired by the President of ECOSOC. It is proposed that in the absence of the President of ECOSOC, the Vice-Presidents of the Council will chair the meetings of the forum on behalf of the President. The Chairs of the interactive round tables will be appointed by the President of ECOSOC.

7. The forum will consist of a formal opening; a general debate; an interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders; six interactive round tables; a panel discussion on the Global Infrastructure Forum; and a formal closing.

8. The updated provisional programme of the forum is available at: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd-follow-up/ecosoc-ffd-forum/programme.html>.

E. Opening of the forum

9. The forum, including the special high-level meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD, will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, 18 April.

10. At the opening of the forum, speeches will be made by the President of ECOSOC and the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Further, the President of the World Bank (WB), the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Director General of the WTO will be invited to deliver statements.

11. The opening will be followed by the statements by the intergovernmental representatives. The Chairperson of the IMF/WB Development Committee, the Chairperson of the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC), the Chairperson of the General Council, WTO and the President of the Trade and Development Board, UNCTAD will be invited to address the forum.

12. Subsequently, keynote presentations will be delivered by senior officials of the relevant UN system organizations including introduction of the report of the Inter-agency Task Force (IATF) on Financing for Development.²

F. General debate

13. The general debate will be held on Monday, 18 April, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Wednesday, 20 April, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. During the general debate, ministers and high-level officials attending the forum will be able to make formal statements, on the understanding that the principle of precedence will be applied as per past practice of the international conferences on financing for development. Each statement will be limited to five minutes for speakers on behalf of groups and three minutes for statements by individual delegations, although this will not preclude the distribution of more extensive texts. Time limits will be strictly observed.

14. The list of speakers for the general debate is open. Requests for inscription on the list of speakers should be sent, in writing, with the full name and title of the speaker, to the Secretary of the Council, Ms. Emer Herity (c/o Ms. Theresa Olvida (e-mail olvida@un.org; fax 1 (212) 963-5935)). Inscription to the list of speakers will close by 5 p.m., on Friday, 15 April 2016.

G. Interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders

15. An interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders will be held on Monday, 18 April, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the topic “Fostering policy coherence in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)”.

H. Interactive round tables and panel discussion

Interactive round tables

16. The forum will include six interactive round tables, held from Tuesday, 19 April to Wednesday, 20 April, on the following topics:

- (a) Round table A: “Global framework for financing sustainable development”;
- (b) Round table B: “Domestic and international public resources”;
- (c) Round table C: “Domestic and international private business and finance”;
- (d) Round table D: “Debt and systemic issues”;
- (e) Round table E: “Trade, science, technology, innovation and capacity-building”;
- (f) Round table F: “Data, monitoring and follow-up”.

² Available at: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/publications/inaugural-2016-iatf-report.html>.

17. The Chairs of the interactive round tables will be appointed by the President of the Council from among ministers and other high-level officials attending the forum. In appointing the Chairs of the round tables, the President of the Council will endeavour to ensure a balanced representation of developing countries as well as developed countries and countries with economies in transition. Member States wishing to serve as Chairs of the six interactive round tables may wish to contact the Office of the President of ECOSOC (c/o Mr. Namki Kim (e-mail korea.un@mofa.go.kr; tel: 1-212-439-4056) with a copy to the Financing for Development Office (Ms. Isabel Tañedo, email tanedo@un.org; tel: 1 (212) 963-0500)). The President of ECOSOC may also invite the heads or high-level officials of relevant institutional stakeholders to act as moderators of the interactive round tables.

18. Each round table will be open to participation by representatives of all participating States; up to 20 representatives of accredited intergovernmental organizations and up to 10 relevant entities of the United Nations system; 3 representatives of accredited civil society organizations; and 3 representatives of accredited business sector entities. Each representative of participating States may be accompanied by one adviser.

19. To encourage an interactive discussion, there will be no prepared list of speakers for the round tables. In order to facilitate preparations for the interactive round tables, representatives of States and accredited intergovernmental organizations are invited to indicate to the Secretariat (c/o Ms. Catalina de Leon, e-mail leonc@un.org); fax: 1 (212) 963 5935) in which of the round tables they intend to participate. The representatives of the relevant entities of the United Nations system wishing to participate in the round tables are invited to indicate to the Financing for Development Office (Ms. Isabel Tañedo, e-mail tanedo@un.org; tel: 1 (212) 963-0500) in which of the round tables they intend to participate. Participation of civil society organizations in the round tables will be coordinated by the CSO FfD Group (<https://csoforffd.wordpress.com/about/>) while participation of the business sector will be coordinated by the Business Sector Steering Committee (<http://www.ffdbusinesscommittee.org/about.html>).

20. Each round table will include a panel discussion, comprising two or three panellists and one lead discussant. The panel discussion will be followed by an interactive debate. In order to provide for maximum participation, interventions should not exceed five minutes for States speaking on behalf of groups, three minutes for individual States and all other stakeholders. All participants will be invited to speak from their seats and are encouraged to avoid reading from written statements, although this will not preclude the publication of more extensive texts.

Panel discussion

21. On Tuesday, 19 April, there will also be a panel discussion, featuring presentation of the outcome of the Global Infrastructure Forum (Washington, D.C., 16 April 2016), followed by an interactive discussion.

I. Closing of the forum

22. In accordance with paragraph 132 of the AAAA, the intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations are expected to be adopted at the closing of the forum. The forum will be formally closed by the President of the Council.

III. Seating arrangements

23. Owing to space limitations at the Trusteeship Council Chamber, at the opening of the forum and at subsequent meetings, the delegation of each State participating in the forum and that of the European Union will be assigned two seats: one at the table and one behind. Seating will also be specifically assigned for other participants. Seating for the interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders to be held on Monday, 18 April, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. will provide for the Executive Directors of these institutions to be seated among States.

IV. Participants

24. The meetings of the forum will be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations or States members of specialized agencies and the European Union; intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the sessions and work of the General Assembly; other intergovernmental organizations in accordance with rule 74 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council; intergovernmental organizations that were accredited to the Monterrey, Doha or Addis Ababa Conferences on Financing for Development and their follow-up process; and the relevant entities of the United Nations system; as well as civil society organizations and business sector entities.

Civil society and the business sector

25. Representatives of civil society and the business sector entities are invited to participate in the forum in accordance with the established practice of previous international conferences on financing for development, namely: (a) all non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; and (b) all non-governmental organizations and business sector entities that were accredited to the Monterrey, Doha or Addis Conferences on Financing for Development and their follow-up process.

26. A dedicated briefing for civil society and the business sector will be held on Tuesday, 19 April 2016, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the ECOSOC Chamber.

V. Registration

27. Registration for States and intergovernmental organizations will be opened with the United Nations Protocol and Liaison Service in New York, following an announcement in the *Journal of the United Nations*.

28. For inclusion in the list of participants, delegations are kindly requested to send the names of their representatives and alternates attending the forum to the Secretary

of the Council (e-mail olvida@un.org; Room S-1281; fax 1 (212) 963-5935). Please note that only scanned copies of notes verbales will be accepted by e-mail.

29. Registration for relevant organizations of the United Nations system, civil society organizations and the business sector entities has been opened. Registration for civil society organizations can be found at <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd-follow-up/ecosoc-ffd-forum/cso-registration.html>. Registration for the business sector can be found at: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd-follow-up/ecosoc-ffd-forum/business-sector-registration.html>. Registration for civil society and the business sector entities will close on Tuesday, 12 April.

VI. Documentation

A. Pre-session documentation

30. The pre-session documentation of the forum includes:

- (a) Provisional agenda ([E/FFDF/2016/1](#));
- (b) Note by the Secretary-General on Monitoring commitments and actions in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development³ ([E/FFDF/2016/2](#));
- (c) Inaugural 2016 Report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development — Addis Ababa Action Agenda: Monitoring commitments and actions.³

B. In-session documentation

31. In-session documentation will include:

- (a) Draft report of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up for 2016 ([E/FFDF/2016/L.1](#));
- (b) Draft agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow up ([E/FFDF/2016/L.2](#)).

C. Post-session documentation

32. Post-session documentation will include:

- (a) Final procedural report of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up for 2016 containing the agreed conclusions and recommendations ([E/FFDF/2016/3](#));
- (b) Summary by the President of ECOSOC of the Special meeting with the BWIs, WTO and UNCTAD ([E/FFDF/2016/4](#)).

³ Advance unedited version is available at: http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/SGN_IATF-on-FfD_AUV_22-03-16.pdf.

33. An informal summary of the Economic and Social Council forum on Financing for Development follow-up will be prepared by the Secretariat and posted on the website of the forum (<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd-follow-up/ecosoc-ffd-forum.html>).

D. Inputs from all relevant stakeholders

34. Background information on the forum, including inputs received from all relevant stakeholders, will be posted and updated, on a regular basis, on the website of the forum (<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd-follow-up/ecosoc-ffd-forum.html>).

VII. Media arrangements

Live coverage

35. The Department of Public Information will provide live coverage of the forum. Live and on-demand webcasts of the meetings of the forum and press conferences, in English and the original language of the speaker, will be available at the United Nations Web TV website (<http://webtv.un.org>). Press releases, official documents, statements and other information material will be made available at <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd-follow-up/ecosoc-ffd-forum.html>. The forum will also be covered live on Twitter using the hashtag #FFDForum. Participants are encouraged to share content on their own social media platforms using that hashtag.

Media facilities

36. A press kit containing background information relevant to the forum will be available from the Department of Public Information in all official languages. It will be posted on the forum website.

VIII. Side events

37. A series of side events, organized by Member States and other stakeholders will complement the official programme of the forum. All side events should be registered through the online form (<http://goo.gl/forms/0LFytj4eR2>) by 8 April 2016. The programme of side events, as well as information on the guidelines for the organization of the side events is available on the website of the forum (<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd-follow-up/ecosoc-ffd-forum/side-events.html>).

Annex

Tentative programme of the Economic and Social Council forum on financing for development follow-up

United Nations Headquarters, 18-20 April 2016

Monday, 18 April

- Opening of the forum
- 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Opening by the President of ECOSOC of the forum on Financing for Development follow-up on the overall theme “Financing for sustainable development: follow up to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda”
- Adoption of the provisional agenda and other organizational matters
- Statement by the President of the Economic and Social Council
- Statements by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the World Bank, the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund and the Director-General of the World Trade Organization
- Statements by the Chairperson of the IMF/World Bank Development Committee, the Chairperson of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, the Chairperson of the General Council of the World Trade Organization and the President of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- Keynote presentations by senior officials of the relevant United Nations system organizations
- 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. General debate: Statements by ministers and high-level officials
- 3-6 p.m. Interactive dialogue with major institutional stakeholders on “Fostering policy coherence in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda”

Tuesday, 19 April

- 9-10 a.m. Briefing for civil society and the business sector
- 10-11 a.m. Round table A: “Global framework for financing sustainable development”
- 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Round table B: “Domestic and international public resources”
- 3-4 p.m. Panel Discussion on the Global Infrastructure Forum
- 4-6 p.m. Round Table C: “Domestic and international private business and finance”

Wednesday, 20 April

- 9-11 a.m. Round Table D: “Debt and systemic issues”
- 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Round Table E: “Trade, science, technology, innovation and capacity-building”

3-4:30 p.m.	Round Table F: “Data, monitoring and follow-up”
4:30-5:30 p.m.	Continuation of the general debate: Statements by ministers and high-level officials Closing of the forum
5:30-6 p.m.	Consideration of draft intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations Adoption of the procedural report of the forum Closing of the forum by the President of ECOSOC
