

General debate, Belgium

**First Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 4th International Conference on  
Financing for Development**

*22-23/07/2024, Addis Ababa*

Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Belgium associates itself with the statement of the European Union.

Let me begin by welcoming the organisation of this Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development. As we have heard today, the global polycrises already mentioned in the AAAA are aggravated by health and environment crisis, violent conflicts and the destabilisation of the geopolitical landscape. This is leading to an intensification of global challenges and increasing fragility. We are seeing impacts on all countries, but the poorest and most vulnerable countries are suffering the most.

At the same time, initiatives have flourished in various fora, be it on multilateral development banks, Special Drawing Rights, or effective multilateralism. The urgency to act has fostered a new commitment to financing reforms and a renewal of dialogue among international financial institutions.

FFD4 represents a unique opportunity to have an open, inclusive and holistic conversation; to take stock of recent and future developments in the international financial architecture; and to restore confidence within and in multilateralism and the UN system. We thank Spain for hosting

the fourth conference next July and we express our confidence in DESA to assist us in this process.

Our aim is to create a new development paradigm building on mutually beneficial partnerships, to tackle common challenges and to protect our global public goods. Essential in that transformation is to keep the concept of international solidarity at the core of our actions and to preserve and expand the use of aid effectiveness principles.

In these conversations, Belgium will more particularly promote the improvement of the efficiency and effectiveness of every resources spent within the international financial architecture, by examining results-oriented implementation models, streamlining processes and procedures, and encouraging institutions to function better as a system and avoid overlap and fragmentation.

Finally, Belgium will contribute to ensuring complementarity and coherence with the upcoming Summit of the Future, COP29 and the World Social Summit, with the objective of establishing a multilateralism that is aligned with the realities and challenges of the 21st century.

I wish you fruitful work in the days and months ahead. Thank you.