

RT7 on International development cooperation, Belgium

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

*25/07/2024, Addis Ababa*

Thank you, Madam Moderator.

More than ever, there is a need for confidence-building, unity, coordinated diplomacy and enhanced cooperation. As stated in the General Debate, Belgium believes that FFD4 offers an opportunity to contribute to a new development paradigm to address common challenges and protect our global public goods. We need mutually beneficial partnerships that work over the long term and are truly win-win partnerships through sustained engagement.

The notion of "mutually beneficial" partnership has been put into practice during the last six months of the Belgian Presidency of the EU. Building on the lessons of the pandemic and previous initiatives, the Belgian Presidency prioritised health as a global public good, a prerequisite for social development and the need to strengthen equitable access to health systems and products.

We organised a European ministerial mission to Addis Ababa, a high-level conference and an expert conference. Through active listening, ownership and co-creation, these discussions emphasised 'African health sovereignty', informed future cooperation and moved the partnership forward. The Presidency culminated in new policy outcomes, with an

outcome document reflecting a deepened EU-AU partnership in global health and the launch of four new Team Europe initiatives.

As a traditional donor and member of the DAC Committee, we would like to say a few words about the need and use of concessional resources.

Despite the overall growth, the scarcity and quality of ODA invite us to prioritise the most vulnerable and least favoured countries and to use it for catalytic actions for transformative change, including mobilising additional resources, providing technical assistance and capacity building. In addition, we should continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of concessional resources spent within the international financial architecture, as noted by some of the panelists.

Finally, FFD4 is an opportunity to preserve best practices by extending the use of aid effectiveness principles to ensure results, ownership, transparency and accountability.