

**Preparatory Committee for the Fourth International Conference on
Financing for Development (FFD4): Portugal's General Statement**

Addis Ababa, July 22-26

Thank you, Chair.

Portugal aligns itself with the statement of the EU and would like to add the following in its national capacity.

9 years after the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, we face a critical moment.

In face of tremendous challenges and an uncertain international context, there is but **only one way forward to turbo-charge the SDGs**: coming together to take stock and identify actions that accelerate the implementation of Addis, while addressing new challenges that have emerged since 2015

Portugal is determined to craft an **inclusive, balanced and forward-looking process** to that effect, where everyone feels heard.

We count on your support to make it a success.

On substance, and in our national capacity, we will pay particular attention to three areas:

- **Reform of the international financial architecture** to better support the achievement of the SDGs, including through a swifter response to **debt distress, income inequality and financial instability**, with a **reinvigorated role for MDBs, improved international tax cooperation**, and a **renewed understanding of measures of development beyond GDP**, including vulnerability, and their link to such key processes as **graduation**
- **Unlock private sector investment, enhance access to finance**, and **improve the use of innovative SDG focused financing mechanisms**, such as **debt-for-climate swaps**
- **Promote innovative cooperation modalities**, such as **triangular cooperation**, building bridges between Global North and South to push forward agendas of common interest, such as poverty reduction, hunger eradication, gender equality, health, education, social protection, the fight against climate change and digital transformation

Policy coherence for development and international cooperation is a cross-cutting concern in this context.

Institutional capacity-building also is key in ensuring the sustainability of development efforts, including in such key areas as public financial management.

Excellencies,

Looking ahead, you can count on us to **work to connect the dots** between discussions here at the UN and elsewhere – the G20, of which we are a current guest country, the BWIs, and the 4P initiative, of which we are members, among others.

We will **engage constructively with everyone** to ensure the success of this preparatory process, for the benefit of all, **leaving no one behind**.

I thank you.

357 words