**Australia’s interventions to the zero draft Outcome document of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development**

**I. A Global Financing Framework**

* In P1, it is critical for the UN’s Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) outcome to reaffirm commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as per language in the UN 2024 High Level Political Forum outcome.
* In P2, the third sentence over-simplifies the situation, appropriating blame for the SDGs being off track by calling out the international financial architecture. There are multiple and interrelated financing challenges to achieving the SDGs, not solely caused by the international financial architecture. We believe that this paragraph can be reworded to more fairly respect the balance between multiple financing challenges.
* P3 should give due recognition to current lines of efforts to respond to the challenges highlighted in P4, particularly the reform of the international financial architecture and international financial institutions. Failure to do so risks abandoning and undermining progress that has and will continue to unlock greater and more impactful financing towards the 2030 Agenda.
* P4 should recognise that widening financial divides within countries have adversely impacted realisation of sustainable development.
* P5 should focus on measures that can support lowering the cost of capital rather than the unrealistic commitment to lower the cost of capital outright.
* In P6, reference to “effort and actions” must be broadened to go beyond just the “international level”, recognising that this “collective action” requires participation by all. We do not support the reference to “mutual respect” as this implies that national-level engagements may bypass international rules and norms, and obligations under international law.
* We recommend replacing “mutual respect” with ‘international cooperation’ and/or ‘international law’. More broadly, there is no reference to international law in the zero draft document. Given international law plays a key role in shaping actions at an international and multilateral level, this is degrading the quality and relevance of FFD4.
* The last sentence of this paragraph should be aligned with text from SDG 17.15, given the issue of “policy space” for sustainable development isn’t particularly well-agreed and understood.
* The intent of P8 is unclear, as the text does not outline how “efficient and transparent mobilisation and use of resources” is to be enabled by “freedom, human rights and national sovereignty”. Australia opposes linking national sovereignty with human rights. We suggest that the paragraph incorporate previously agreed language from Paragraph 9 of the 2024 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development.
* In P9, we propose the removal of “alliances” as it is unclear under what context this is referring to. We welcome the inclusion of civil society in this paragraph and reinforce the value of civil society voices in the FFD4 process.
* In P10, Australia opposes support in the text for non-UN documents. Australia also opposes a dedicated program of action for middle-income countries. Finance is scarce and we need to fully implement programs of action for countries in special situations as already agreed. We propose drawing on agreed text in Paragraph 56 of the 2024 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development for framing inclusive support to middle-income countries.
* In P12, FFD4 must recognise the diverse range of contexts and challenges faced by different states and communities so that we leave no one behind. This includes gender equality, equality for people living with a disability, as well as recognition of indigenous peoples and other marginalised groups.
* P13 would be strengthened by referencing that inequalities within many countries have increased dramatically and that women, representing half of the world’s population, as well as indigenous peoples and the vulnerable, continue to be excluded from participating fully in economies.
* In P14, Australia supports reference to the underinvestment in critical social sectors.
* In P15, we welcome the inclusion of language on social protection systems and propose aligning this reference with SDG 1.3 on implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems for all. This paragraph should also highlight the importance of inclusive social protection systems to economic growth, building resilience, food security, reducing poverty and advancing gender equality.
* Furthermore, in the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda, we agreed a new social compact to provide fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all. Australia would like to see a reinvigoration of this social compact in P15.
* In P17, we welcome the inclusion of language regarding food security, and references to malnutrition as a challenge in development. This paragraph could be strengthened through additional references to climate change impacts on food security.
* In P18, Australia would like to see standalone paragraphs on education and health given the importance of these issues to sustainable development. We would like to see a reference to how education and health investments foster economic growth. This should also clearly outline the education and health outcomes we seek, including ensuring that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy, and that universal health coverage is expanded to include support for sexual and reproductive health and rights, and access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services.
* In P19, Australia welcomes the strong discussion of gender equality in the text and highlights the importance of keeping this paragraph in the outcome document. Australia supports including gender equality as a priority in FFD4.
* In addition to the early reference in the document, gender equality should be expanded – both in recognition of gender equality’s importance, and in applying a gender-lens to relevant financing for development priorities and actions throughout the document.
* Australia supports inserting a new paragraph after P19 on the criticality of responding to the needs of people with a disability and indigenous peoples.
* In P21, we welcome references to the unique challenges of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and see the need to reaffirm SIDS as a group of countries in special circumstances. Infrastructure gaps can significantly halt the sustainable development of developing countries, and we welcome the discussion of this in the text and encourage continued action in this area.
* In P22, sustainable development and combatting climate change are interlinked challenges that must be addressed in a connected way. If we treat each challenge as a silo we will fail. Finance must be mobilised from all sources if we are to meet our development climate goals.
* Australia supports the transfer of technology only where is it voluntary and on a mutually agreed. This reflects the principle of consent and maintains the balance within the WTO’s Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Policy.
* In P24, we strongly support the language of scaling up investment in disaster risk reduction to safeguard development gains. FFD4 is an opportunity to build on the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda and its call for more climate and disaster resilience in development financing as part of sustainable development.
* In P25, Australia welcomes references to addressing corruption, and propose strengthening this paragraph to include the importance of combating corruption at all levels and in all its forms, and effective, accountable and inclusive democratic institutions at the subnational, national and international levels is central to enabling the effective, efficient and transparent mobilisation and use of resources.
* We also propose that references to addressing corruption are in line with international obligations. Corruption is a cross-cutting issue and anti-corruption measures should be integrated consistently and according to existing standards, primarily the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).
* In P26, we propose reinforcing the importance that technologies must be safe, secure and trustworthy. Building trust, transparency, and accountability in digital and emerging technologies is crucial to ensuring they provide maximum development benefits and protect people’s rights.
* In P27, we welcome reference to the disaggregation of data. As emphasised in the FFD4 Elements Paper, there is significant opportunity to enhance gender-disaggregated data and data on indigenous peoples. Australia supports the FFD4 Elements Paper’s call for efforts to develop measures of vulnerability that go beyond per capita income as a complement to existing policies and practices, including the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index.