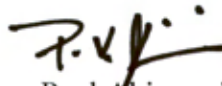


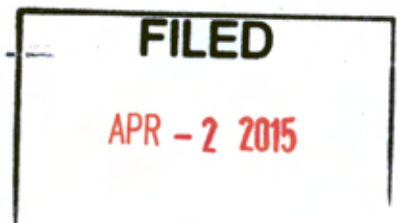
**Note to the Secretary-General
(through the Deputy Secretary-General)**

Regional Consultation on Financing for Development for Europe
(Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 23 March 2015)

1. The second of the five regional consultations on Financing for Development took place in Geneva (with ECE and the Regional United Nations Development Group for Europe and Central Asia) on 23 March 2015. Participants from Member States were primarily at the expert level. The objective of the meeting was to identify strategies and instruments to promote the mobilization of resources. It was agreed that a summary by the organizers will be submitted to the co-facilitators of the Financing for Development preparatory process as an input to the intergovernmental negotiations.
2. Mr Wu, Secretary-General of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, addressed the Consultation emphasizing the importance of Member States' participation at the highest possible levels. Ms Mohammed reinforced the message. A number of Member States agreed with a call to recommit to ODA targets to build trust and confidence in global cooperation.
3. Many participants suggested the alignment of financial regulations and reporting requirements and a greater use of innovative tools, blended finance and partnerships to catalyse private resources for sustainable development. Just as in the Consultation that took place in Santiago, there were calls to upgrade the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters into an intergovernmental body. There were also calls for a strong and universal monitoring and review framework.
4. The next regional consultations will take place in Amman (with ESCWA) and Jakarta (with ESCAP) in April. The Executive Secretaries of the five Commissions are planning a briefing on the consultations at a special informal meeting of the General Assembly in May.


Paul Akiwumi
31 March 2015

ODSG	DSG	SG
For DSG's approval <input type="checkbox"/>	For SG's approval <input type="checkbox"/>	Approved <input type="checkbox"/>
For DSG's attention <input type="checkbox"/>	For SG's attention <input type="checkbox"/>	Noted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For DSG's information <input type="checkbox"/>	For SG's information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Seen <input type="checkbox"/>
For DSG's signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For SG's signature <input type="checkbox"/>	Signed <input type="checkbox"/>
Date: _____		Date: <u>1/4/15</u>
Comment (if applicable):		
<u>Subject:</u> Note to the SG: "Regional Consultation on Financing for Development for Europe (Addis Ababa, 23 March 2015)		
Date: <u>31 March 2015</u>		
Comment (if applicable):		
Log number: 15-02612		



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Note to the Secretary-General

Regional Consultation on Financing for Development for Europe (23 March 2015)

On 23 March, I participated in the Regional Consultation on Financing for Development in Geneva, organized jointly by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Regional UN Development Group for Europe and Central Asia, in preparation for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13-16 July 2015).

The host Government was represented by Mr. Manuel Sager, State Secretary and Director General of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, and Mr. Michael Gerber, Special Envoy for Global Sustainable Development. The meeting was attended by around 140 participants from ECE Member States, primarily at the expert level, as well as representatives of academia, research institutions, international organizations, civil society and the private sector. The objective of the consultation was to identify strategies and instruments that the region had to offer to promote the mobilization of resources for sustainable development. The outcome of the meeting will be summarized by the organizers and will be submitted to the co-facilitators of the preparatory process, Ambassadors Pedersen (Norway) and Talbot (Guyana), as an input to the intergovernmental negotiations leading up to Addis Ababa.

In my opening remarks, I briefed participants on the state of intergovernmental deliberations on Financing for Development and the post-2015 development agenda, and highlighted the importance of strong engagement from the region in these deliberations in the coming months and the highest possible level of participation in the Addis Conference. Your Special Adviser, Ms. Amina Mohammed, who also spoke at the consultation, reinforced this message. I was pleased that a number of Member States responded very positively to my call for countries of the region to recommit to achieving their ODA targets, in order to build trust and confidence in global cooperation for development at this critical stage.

There was broad agreement among participants that the global environment had changed significantly since the 2002 Monterrey Conference, and that a much wider array of resources was available to meet the large financing needs for sustainable development. The Addis Ababa Accord would have to reflect this new reality, and many participants expressed satisfaction that the zero draft of the outcome document did justice to this new environment. Against this backdrop, the substantive discussions focused on three areas: (1) the mobilization and channeling of private resources toward sustainable development; (2) the creation of a conducive international environment for resource mobilization; and (3) a renewed global partnership for financing sustainable development.

In a panel on 'unlocking private resources for sustainable development', participants recognized the contribution of private finance to sustainable development, but also discussed impediments that stand in the way of all private finance and investment becoming sustainable. There were specific proposals to overcome such impediments, including the alignment of financial regulations and reporting requirements with sustainable development, and a greater use of innovative tools, blended financing and public-private partnerships. It was noted, in

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particular, that risks and rewards would need to be shared fairly between public and private actors. In this context, a representative of the World Economic Forum (WEF), noted that WEF intended to launch a blended finance toolkit for policy makers in developing countries at the Addis Conference.

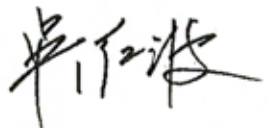
Good governance and accountable institutions at all levels were seen as key aspects of conducive environments for sustainable development. In addition to national enabling environments, many speakers emphasized the importance of enhanced international cooperation, in particular in the area of tax cooperation. The OECD work on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting was lauded in this context, but there were also calls for more inclusive discussions on international tax cooperation and for strengthening the representation of developing countries in the international tax fora, including by upgrading the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters into an intergovernmental body.

In the discussion on the renewed global partnership, the central role of ODA was reaffirmed, and several countries called on others in the region to step up their ambition and set timetables for meeting their commitments in the run up to Addis Ababa. At the same time, there was recognition that ODA should serve as a catalyst to leverage private financing flows, in order to meet large financing needs. Several delegations stressed that the Addis Ababa Conference should define a comprehensive financing framework for sustainable development, and therefore cover all financing sources as well as the non-financial means of implementation.

Many speakers highlighted the importance of a strong and universal monitoring and review framework to ensure that commitments would be met and that no country should be left behind. To this end, the Financing for Development follow-up process would need to be strengthened, while also ensuring that it is linked with the broader follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda.

The Geneva consultation was held at the same time as the Africa regional consultation at the expert level in Addis Ababa. They followed the Latin America and Caribbean consultation held in Santiago, Chile, two weeks ago. Consultations in Amman, Jordan, for the Western Asia region, and in Jakarta, Indonesia, for the Asia and Pacific region, will conclude the series of regional consultations. The Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions plan to brief the full UN membership in New York on the outcomes of regional consultations at a special informal meeting of the General Assembly, to be organized in May.

I will keep you informed as the process continues.



WU Hongbo
26 March 2015

cc: Deputy Secretary-General



To:
Cc:
Bcc:

Subject: Fw: Note to the (DESA-15/00304), Regional Consultation on Financing for Development for Europe (23 March 2015)

From: Helen Valencia/NY/UNO
To: SGCentral/NY/UNO@UNHQ,
Cc: Haitian Lu/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Hongbo Wu/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Kay Govia/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Lin Yang/NY/UNO@UNHQ, Yunxiao Long/NY/UNO@UNHQ, njanja-fassu@un.org, Paul Akiwumi/NY/UNO@UNHQ
Date: 26/03/2015 05:43 PM
Subject: Note to the (DESA-15/00304), Regional Consultation on Financing for Development for Europe (23 March 2015)



DESA-15-00304.pdf

Dear colleagues,

Please find attached a Note from Mr. Wu to the Secretary-General entitled, "Regional Consultation on Financing for Development for Europe."

Best regards,

Helen



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