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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
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Note to the Secretary-General

Third meeting of Informal Consultations on the
Third International Conference on Financing for Development

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/204, the two co-facilitators, Ambassador George Talbot of Guyana and Ambassador Geir Pedersen of Norway, convened, on 13 May 2014, the third meeting of informal consultations on the preparation of the third international conference on financing for development (FfD). The meeting had before it a letter from the President of the General Assembly dated 6 May 2014, which enclosed elements for a draft resolution, prepared by the co-facilitators, on the date, format, organization and scope of the conference.

The meeting was well attended by Member States from both the North and South. A total of fifteen delegations actively participated in the discussion, including Suriname (speaking on behalf of the G77 and China), the European Union (on behalf of its Member and Associated States) and Saint Lucia (on behalf of CARICOM).

The meeting featured a briefing by Mr. Mansur Muhtar (Nigeria), co-chair of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. The Committee is currently holding its fourth session in New York (12-16 May 2014), focusing on a zero draft of its report, submitted by the co-chairs. Mr. Mansur highlighted the key points of the preparation of the draft, which is due to be completed by September 2014. In particular, the speaker emphasized substantive synergies and similarities between the scope of the forthcoming conference and the work of the Committee, as both recognized the Monterrey and Doha framework as the basis for a new financing strategy. In that context, Mr. Muhtar expressed his hope that the final report of the Committee would provide an important contribution to the preparation of the Conference and the ongoing effort to arrive at a holistic financing strategy for the UN development agenda beyond 2015. All Member States expressed their appreciation for the briefing and welcomed the work of the Committee.

The ensuing discussion focused on the following elements for a draft resolution. Ethiopia reiterated its offer to host the conference, which was met with appreciation from all Member States.

As for the date of the conference, the G77 and China insisted on the first half of 2015, prior to the September Summit on the post-2015 development agenda. Two Member States (Canada and Australia) expressed their clear preference for 2016. Several delegations showed flexibility on this issue (EU, US, Russia, Japan, Republic of Korea and Switzerland). There was a general consensus that, regardless of the timing, it was important to avoid duplication between different processes related to financing the post-2015 development agenda.

There were different views on the duration of the conference. Developing countries called for a five-day conference, in order to have sufficient time to cover its comprehensive agenda. Several developed countries (EU) preferred a three-day event, largely for budgetary reasons.

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There was a convergence of views that the scope of the conference was contained in General Assembly resolution 68/204, in its entirety. **Delegations** further stressed the need to build on **Monterrey and Doha** and incorporate new challenges and emerging issues, as spelled out in para 40 and 43 of the resolution.

On the format of the Conference, there was general agreement that the Conference should be held at the highest possible **level** and should involve ministers of finance, development cooperation and foreign affairs. Member States also stressed the need for high-level participation of **the** international financial and trade institutions and other relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental **organizations** and the private sector. The G77 and China proposed to follow the language on stakeholder engagement of the 2014 SIDS conference. Moreover, it was emphasized that the outcome of the **conference** should be an **intergovernmentally-agreed** document.

Delegations expressed different views on the organization of the preparatory process. The G77 and China, supported by Russia, favoured a hybrid option that would consist of two Preparatory **Committee** (PrepCom) meetings, interspersed with informal review sessions and informal negotiations. Australia favored the establishment of a PrepCom without excessive inter-sessional meetings. The US and Canada preferred **intergovernmental** negotiations of the whole instead of the PrepCom. Several others (EU and Japan) stated that the preparatory process should not impose an undue burden on the UN budget. The view was expressed that the timing, scope and **organization** were closely interrelated and had to be discussed in connection with each other (Republic of Korea, **Switzerland**).

As a next step, the co-facilitators will prepare revised elements for a draft resolution, to be taken up at the next meeting of informal consultations on 20 May 2014.


I will continue to keep you informed on further progress.



WU Hongbo
15 May 2014

cc: Deputy Secretary-General

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