

**Remarks by the President of ECOSOC delivered by H.E. Ambassador Marie Chatardova,
Vice President of ECOSOC (Czech Republic)
Friends of Monterrey retreat
(Mexico City, 23 April 2017)**

**Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

I wish to thank the Government of Mexico and the co-hosts of this retreat for the kind invitation. I apologize that I cannot attend this event in person, due to a prior commitment. I have no doubt that Ambassador Chatardova will competently represent me.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It has been almost two years since the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We have seen positive developments at all levels. But, the shift in mindset and behavior, policies and regulations, incentive structure and practices, that is required for financing the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is far from complete.

It is time to take a moment to reflect on what we did well and what not, as well as how we can do better, to generate the major shift anticipated in the Addis Agenda. The ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up, established by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, offers such space.

Let me now turn to the programme of the FfD Forum.

The inaugural 2016 Forum devoted particular attention to setting up the monitoring framework for the follow-up to the Addis Agenda. The second 2017 Forum is expected to place a major focus on reviewing and promoting the implementation of FfD outcomes, as well as all the Means of Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The programme has therefore been designed to meet this expectation.

The 2017 Forum begins with the ministerial segment, comprising the special High-level Meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD, the general debate and ministerial round tables.

The special High-level Meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and UNCTAD will feature statements by the heads of major FfD institutional stakeholders, their intergovernmental representatives and keynote presentations.

Based on the successful experience of the inaugural FfD Forum, the 2017 Forum will feature an interactive dialogue between UN Ambassadors and the Executive Directors of the World Bank Group and the IMF. The dialogue will focus on policy coherence, inequalities and inclusive growth. As part of our preparations for this dialogue, the Bureau of ECOSOC visited the World

Bank and IMF Headquarters in Washington D.C. on 10 April. The Executive Directors of both institutions emphasized that they highly value their interaction with the United Nations. They were keen to deepen this relationship through the Forum and beyond.

The main innovation of the Forum this year are the ministerial round tables, on 23 May. They will enable Member States and other stakeholders to share steps taken towards implementation of commitments contained in the Addis Agenda and other FfD outcomes.

Each round table would bring together a balanced mix of ministers from developed and developing countries, one high-level representative from an international financial institution or an intergovernmental organization, and high-level representatives from civil society and the private sector. I encourage all interested governments to nominate, as early as possible, ministers to attend the roundtables.

The expert segment, which will be held on the last two days of the Forum, is intended to provide space for a comprehensive and balanced review of the implementation of the Addis Agenda. As a result, the expert segment includes a panel discussion on the IATF report, thematic round tables and expert discussions, a stakeholder dialogue and an update on the progress made in fora mandated by the Addis Agenda and key voluntary initiatives launched at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

Now, I wish to say a few words about the intergovernmental negotiations on the conclusions and recommendations of the FfD Forum.

I have appointed Ambassador Marc Pecsteen of Belgium and Ambassador Jerry Matjila of South Africa as co-facilitators for the outcome of the 2017 FfD Forum. The co-facilitators convened the first informal consultation on 4 April, to hear the views of Member States on desired content and format of the conclusions and recommendations of the Forum. The second informal took place last Friday when Member States made their first substantive comments.

The co-facilitators intend to circulate a zero draft this week for consideration by Member States. They are committed to concluding intergovernmental negotiations before the start of the Forum.

Overall, I heard universal support for the roadmap of the co-facilitators and for reaching agreement before the Forum.

Member States would like to have a substantive, balanced and comprehensive yet concise document. The document is expected to note positive developments, identify gaps and present practical solutions to promote the implementation of the Addis Agenda.

Member States also underscored the need to capture the results of other related processes, such as the Global Infrastructure Forum and the Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation.

On substance, Member States welcomed the timely release of the advance unedited version of the IATF report as well as the series of technical briefings.

A wish was also expressed to capture the implementation of the Addis Agenda and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a holistic and balanced manner.

With regards to countries in special situations, delegates particularly emphasized the importance of addressing the “LDC Package”, including the international financial and economic environment, Official Development Assistance, and Foreign Direct Investment and technology transfer aligned with national priorities.

They stressed that one-size-fits-all solutions should be avoided in addressing the challenges of specific groups such as Africa, LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and MICs. There was a call to revisit the issues of eligibility criteria for concessional finance for MICs and SIDS and its impact on climate change, health and education in these countries.

I am confident that the co-facilitators will steer the process towards a successful conclusion. Let me take this opportunity to call on all of you to mobilize the participation of your senior officials in the upcoming FfD Forum.

I wish you a successful retreat and thank you for your attention.