

BACKGROUND NOTE

High-Level Thematic Debate on Means of Implementation for a Transformative post-2015 development agenda, 9-10 February 2015

Introduction

The High Level Thematic Debate scheduled for 9-10 February 2015 will provide an opportunity for Member States and stakeholders to address key issues related to means of implementation, with a view to identifying key elements of a renewed and strengthened global partnership for sustainable development. It also aims to address issues related to infrastructure development as well as the role of parliaments, cities and local authorities in the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda.

Plenary discussion

Mobilization and effective use of adequate means of implementation - financial resources, technology development and transfer and capacity-building- will be critical to delivering on and implementing a transformative post-2015 development agenda. The new agenda's overarching objective, as indicated in the proposal for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), will be to eradicate poverty and hunger and achieve inclusive, sustainable economic growth and development, while protecting the environment, ensuring peaceful and stable societies and realizing human rights.

To ensure successful implementation, the level of ambition of the new universal agenda should be matched with scaled-up resources. Financing needs for sustainable development are considerable in developing and developed countries. The Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing identified large investment requirements to eradicate extreme poverty and address hunger, health and education needs. Investment requirements for infrastructure, for instance, were estimated at US\$ 5-7 trillion annually. Financing needs also differ between countries, with specific needs in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), African countries, and post-conflict countries.

In view of the large needs for implementing the new development agenda, mobilization of additional financial and non-financial resources from all sources will be required: public and private, domestic and international, and they should to be targeted where the needs are greatest.

The increased financing also needs to be complemented by coherent and enabling policy environments; strengthened global economic governance; a fair, open and transparent trade regime; a framework to facilitate the development and transfer technology as well as capacity-building. This will require a renewed and strengthened global partnership for development.

The Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2015, provides an opportunity for Member States and stakeholders to agree on concrete actions and measures for a comprehensive financing framework for the sustainable development agenda and the SDGs.

Means of Implementation will be critical in the context of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. The negotiations will, pursuant to the Rio+20 Outcome and building on the recommendations from the structured dialogues on options for a facilitation mechanism, also seek to elaborate a mechanism to assess technology needs of developing countries and how to address them.

Whereas much of the technology required to make significant progress towards achieving many of the SDGs once adopted is available, developing countries still face significant challenges in accessing, adapting and diffusing such technology. Building many developing countries' science, technology and innovation (STI) capacities and systems, including through improving their research infrastructure and linkages between public and private innovation actors, will be critical. So will be the need to establish frameworks for intellectual property rights that achieve the right balance between incentivizing private investment in innovation and maximizing the diffusion of technology.

International cooperation for the protection of intellectual property should go hand in hand with efforts to enable countries at all levels of development to benefit from the use of technology for sustainable development.

The Rio+20 Outcome also emphasized the need for enhanced capacity building for sustainable development and called for strengthening technological and scientific cooperation including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

Issues for consideration/Guiding questions

A renewed global partnership for implementation of the post-2015 development agenda

- i) What actions are needed to scale up mobilization of financial resources from all sources: domestic public financing, domestic private financing, international public financing (including ODA), international private financing (FDI and remittances), trade, and partnerships?
- ii) What is required of the different development players/actors to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the use of available resources for sustainable development?
- iii) What measures can be taken to develop a financial architecture/system that incentivizes the direction of global public and private savings towards sustainable development, including provision of long-term financing to fill critical infrastructure investment gaps?
- iv) Given the critical role the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies will play in achieving a transformative post-2015 development agenda, what are the best options for a technology facilitation mechanism?
- v) What measures and actions need to be undertaken to further build and strengthen capacities of developing countries, in particular to ensure an effective domestic enabling environment and enhance their ability to effectively implement the post-2015 development agenda?
- vi) How can coherence and a common understanding for robust means of implementation in the post-2015 agenda and the Financing for development process be fostered and agreed? How can trade contribute to renewing the global partnerships for development?

Panel I: *Mobilizing resources for infrastructure development in the post-2015 development agenda and Partnerships for realizing the SDGs*

Mobilizing resources for infrastructure development, particularly in the energy, health, education, water and sanitation, transport and communication sectors, will be critical for promoting economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. While global public and private savings would be sufficient to meet the financing needs,¹ current

¹ Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (A/69/315)

investment in infrastructure remains vastly insufficient, with limited availability of both public and private capital for infrastructure development in developing and developed countries.

The provision of infrastructure, basic services and amenities in rural and urban areas as well as better urban-rural interconnectivity contributes significantly to the creation of economic opportunities, reduction of vulnerability and inequality. There is need to provide opportunities for women, the youth, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations.

Infrastructure investments represent large financing needs that will need to be met to achieve the SDGs. The proportion of public and private financing in infrastructure varies by type of infrastructure and by country, but the majority of infrastructure spending in developing countries is financed out of domestic budgets. Additional domestic resource mobilization is therefore critical, supported by ODA and other sources of international public financing.

In addition to the large financing requirements, challenges to private sector investments in infrastructure arise due to large risk capital requirements for upfront investments in the development and construction phase; risks over future revenue streams due to affordability concerns and policy uncertainty; and macroeconomic and project level risks. Furthermore, social returns often exceed market returns due to externalities, particularly for green infrastructure.² Many investors, such as institutional investors, do not have the capacity to invest directly in infrastructure. At the same time, the maturity of many projects is longer than the time horizon of many investors, including long-term investors.

To facilitate greater private sector investments in infrastructure, governments could consider ways of reducing risks and regulatory uncertainty (particularly with regard to the policy environment for clean technologies), and address governance concerns. There is also a need to improve public-private partnership initiatives. Financing platforms that can pool and fairly share investment risks, as well as pooling of expertise and knowledge between investors and the government, could be considered. Alternatively bonds and similar instruments can be used to leverage resources from investors who are unable to invest directly.

² Bhattacharya et al., 2012, Infrastructure for Development: Meeting the Challenge, CCCEP Policy Paper

Issues for consideration/Guiding questions

- i) What measures and strategies are required to ensure mobilization of adequate financing for critical infrastructure investments in energy, transport, education, health, water and sanitation and other sectors?
- ii) Which priority actions should be undertaken at multilateral level, including by international financial institutions and regional development banks, to scale-up financing of infrastructure for sustainable development, and what specific actions need to be taken by public and private actors to realize this objective?
- iii) What is the best option to facilitate the development and transfer of clean and environmentally sound technologies, particularly to developing countries?
- iv) How can partnerships between governments, the private sector, civil society, academia, philanthropic organizations and other actors be strengthened to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs?

Panel II: *The Role of Parliaments, Cities and Local Authorities in the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda*

In resolution 68/6 on the Outcome document of the Special Event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, Heads of State and Government underscored the need for an inclusive and people-centred post-2015 development agenda, with inputs from all stakeholders, including parliaments and local authorities.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union has also been invited, including through the forthcoming Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, to develop and submit a contribution on the post-2015 development agenda.

Parliaments play critical legislative, representation, and oversight roles which will be important in ensuring that commitments at the national level are met for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Local authorities, urban centres and cities play key roles in providing basic social services such as health, education, water and sanitation, which will be critical to achieving the SDGs. In the Rio+20 Outcome Document, Member States recognized that “cities are engines of economic growth which, if well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies”. The Third United Nations Conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), which will take

place in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016, aims to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization through a “New Urban Agenda”.

Cities are growing and will continue to expand. Currently, more than 50% of the world’s population lives in cities and towns, thus making urban centres the dominant habitat of humankind. Urbanization affects all human settlements: rural villages, urban centres and cities. All these settlements contribute in different ways to national growth and sustainable development.

Many urban centers and cities in both developed and developing countries are facing various challenges with regard to socio-economic development and environmental sustainability. Hence, an integrated holistic approach across all sectors is an essential prerequisite for sustainable urbanization. For its implementation, a combination of tools is needed, including financial resources, technology development and transfer, as well as capacity-building. Local authorities, urban centres and cities face large investment needs for sustainable development, but are often constrained in their access to financial resources.

Issues for consideration/Guiding questions

- i) What role will national parliaments play in monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, including commitments on means of implementation?
- ii) How can local authorities and cities contribute to the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda through socio-economic and environmental sustainability initiatives and interventions at their respective levels?
- iii) What actions and measures need to be taken at national level to support the active engagement of parliaments, local authorities and cities in the implementation of the new development agenda?
- iv) What measures should be taken to address the resource and planning challenges that many local authorities and cities face?

CONCEPT NOTE

HIGH-LEVEL THEMATIC DEBATE ON MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION FOR A TRANSFORMATIVE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA (9-10 FEBRUARY 2015)

Background

The President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly selected the theme “Delivering on and implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda.” It underscores the need to focus not only on reaching agreement on the post-2015 development agenda, but also, and most importantly, on ensuring its effective implementation.

During the 69th session, Member States and other stakeholders will be preoccupied with intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, using inputs that will include the outcomes of the Open Working Group on SDGs, the Intergovernmental Committee on Sustainable Development Financing, structured dialogues on options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, as well as the Secretary-General’s synthesis report.

The intergovernmental negotiations will be underpinned by the need to formulate an agenda that is universal, transformative, inclusive and people-centered with eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development as its overarching objectives. The agenda should be holistic, ambitious, action-oriented, and universally applicable, while taking into account different national realities, capacities, levels of development and respecting national policies, priorities and strategies.

Member States and other stakeholders will also be involved in preparations for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Addis Ababa, July 13-16, 2015.

The outcome of this Conference should constitute an important contribution to and ensure the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

In this regard, addressing the issue of mobilizing adequate means of implementation, in terms of financial resources, technology development and transfer and capacity-building will be critical to delivering on and implementing a truly transformative and ambitious post-2015 development agenda.

The Outcome Document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) entitled “The Future We Want,” recognized “the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing, in order to promote sustainable development,” as well as the “crucial importance of enhancing financial support from all sources for sustainable development for all countries, in particular developing countries.” It also recognized the importance of international, regional and national financial mechanisms, including those accessible to sub-national and local authorities, for the implementation of sustainable development programmes, and called for their strengthening and implementation.

Financing needs for sustainable development are considerable in developing and developed countries, embodying strategic investments in all sectors spanning the social, economic and environmental dimensions. According to the Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing,¹ the estimated cost of a global safety net to eradicate extreme poverty in all countries, measured as increasing incomes of the poorest to the US\$1.25-a-day standard, would amount to about US \$ 66 billion annually.

¹ A/69/315

Investments required in critical infrastructure are estimated to cost between US\$ 5 -7 trillion annually, while the unmet credit needs for SMEs are estimated to be around US\$ 2.5 trillion in developing countries and about US\$ 3.5 trillion globally.

The Rio+20 Outcome underscored the need to identify options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies by, inter alia, assessing technology needs of developing countries and addressing them.

The Rio+20 Outcome also emphasized the need for enhanced capacity building for sustainable development and called for strengthening technical and scientific cooperation including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

Objective

The main objective of the high-level thematic debate will be to provide an opportunity for participants to address key issues related to mobilizing the means of implementation such as:

- i) What actions are needed to scale up mobilization of financial resources from all sources: domestic public financing, domestic private financing, international public financing (including ODA), international private financing (FDI and remittances), trade, and partnerships?
- ii) What is required of the different development players/actors to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the use of available resources for sustainable development?
- iii) How can coherence and a common understanding for robust means of implementation in the post-2015 agenda and the Financing for development process be fostered and agreed? How can trade contribute to renewing the global partnerships for development?

High Level Thematic Debate on
“Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 development agenda”

9-10 February 2015, Trusteeship Council Chamber

Provisional Programme

Opening segment: 10:00 -11:00am

- H.E. Sam K. Kutesa, President of the General Assembly
- H.E. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Keynote Speakers (7 minutes each):

- H.E. Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation, Sweden
- Hon. Maria Kiwanuka, Minister of Finance, Planning and Development, Uganda
- H.E. Zlatko Lagumdžija, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Plenary: 11:00-1:00 p.m. (Member States and stakeholders interventions limited to 3 minutes)
A renewed global partnership for implementation of the post-2015 development agenda

This Session will focus on:

- ❖ What actions need to be taken to mobilize financial resources, technology development and transfer as well as capacity building for implementation of the post-2015 development agenda?

Joint introductory remarks (5 minutes each)

- Co-facilitators for negotiations on post-2015 development agenda
H.E. David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland and
H.E. Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya
- Co-facilitators for Third Financing for Development Conference
H.E. George W. Talbot, Permanent Representative of Guyana and
H.E. Geir O. Pedersen, Permanent Representative of Norway

Panellists (7 minutes each)

- Mr. Erik Solheim, Chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee
- Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General, UNCTAD (Trade as a component of means of implementation)
- Ms. Kathy Calvin, President and CEO – UN Foundation (Role of Partnerships)

Statements/interventions by Member States and stakeholders

1:15 -2:30 p.m. – Lunch hosted by President of General Assembly for High-level participants and invited guests (Delegates Dining Room, 4th Floor CB)

Panel 1: 3:00-6:00 p.m: *Infrastructure Development in the post-2015 development agenda and Partnerships for realizing the SDGs*

Chair: H.E. Zlatko Lagumdžija, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Panellists (5 minutes each)

- Mr. Guido Schmidt-Traub, Executive Director/SDSN (investment strategies and financing mechanisms for critical priorities)
- Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Agency (infrastructure)
- Mr. Georg Kell, Executive Director UN Global Compact (Role of private sector)
- Mr. Laurence Carter, Senior Director, Public Private Partnerships, World Bank Group
- Mr. Bertuch-Samuels, Special Representative, International Monetary Fund

Statements/interventions by Member States and stakeholders (3 minutes each)

Panellists (5 minutes each)

- Mr. Tom Barrett Director, European Investment Bank
- Mr. Kapil Kapoor, Director of Strategy and Operational Policies, African Development Bank
- Mr. Magdy Martinez-Soliman, Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support
- Ms. Sarah Cliffe, Director, Center on International Cooperation, New York University

Statements/interventions by Member States and stakeholders (3 minutes each)

Day 2

Panel 2: 10:00 am-12:30pm: *The Role of Parliaments, Cities and Local Authorities in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda*

Remarks by H.E. Sam Kutesa, President of the General Assembly

Introductory remarks - Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General on post-2015 development planning (5 minutes)

Chair: Hon. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, President, Inter-Parliamentary Union

Panellists (7 minutes each)

- Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN Habitat
- Dr. Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey and President of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
- Hon. Dr. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf, Member of Parliament of Indonesia
- Mr. Parks Tau, Mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa

Statements/interventions by Member States and stakeholders (3 minutes each)

Panellists (7 minutes each)

- Hon. Deputy Ernesto Gil, Legislature of Mexico and President, Global Parliamentarians on Habitat
- Ms. Jennifer Musisi, Executive Director, Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA)
- Ms. Ana Falu, Women and Habitat Network, Civil Society representative, Argentina

Statements/interventions by Member States and stakeholders (3 minutes each)

Closing segment: 12:30-1:00pm - PGA summary

9 February 2015

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,
President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly,
at the Opening of the High-Level thematic debate on “Means of
implementation for a transformative post-2015 development agenda”**

**Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Mr. Deputy Secretary-General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to thank you for the importance you continue to attach to ensuring that we formulate an ambitious and transformative post-2015 development agenda, and accompany it with adequate means for its implementation. The high-level participation and keen interest in this thematic debate attests to that commitment. I welcome the Honourable Ministers, Members of Parliament and Distinguished Panellists.

This debate provides a unique opportunity for an in-depth exchange of views, proposals and recommendations on the concrete measures and actions we must take to mobilize the scale of resources – finances, technology and capacity building – that are needed to successfully implement an ambitious new agenda. We will also discuss the important roles that parliaments, cities, and local authorities will play in implementation of the new agenda, on the ground.

Our Keynote speakers and panellists will share their perspectives on these critical issues. I look forward to the valuable contributions and input of Member States and stakeholders in the discussions today and tomorrow. At the end of the debate, a President’s Summary capturing proposed actions and measures will be prepared and circulated for consideration as a contribution to the ongoing negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and the Third Conference on Financing for Development.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,**

As I have said before, this year we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to change our world, for the better. We have to continue accelerating efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the remaining period, and carry forward the unfinished business. The new universal development agenda represents our collective commitment to humankind and the planet. Together, we must spare no effort to formulate and agree on a framework for development and international cooperation that improves the everyday lives of people worldwide, and protects the environment.

The new development framework should be inclusive and transformative, with poverty eradication and achievement of sustainable development in its social, economic and environmental dimensions as its overarching objectives.

We all know that the success of the post-2015 development agenda will depend on more than ambition and aspirations. It will require commitment at all levels from political leadership, multilateral organizations, civil society, the private sector, and all stakeholders to mobilize adequate resources to ensure that our development aspirations are met.

To put our discussions in perspective, we have to ask three interrelated questions: What is the scale of resources we have to mobilize in order to implement an ambitious and truly transformative agenda? What concrete policies, actions, and measures must we take to mobilize the required resources? And how shall we ensure effective use of those resources to achieve sustainable development?

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The proposed 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), which will be the main component of the post-2015 development agenda, contain 169 ambitious targets with the potential to transform our societies and preserve our planet.

Given the ambition, breadth and scope of the new agenda, the resources required are much more than we needed for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Emerging estimates indicate, for instance, that additional financing needed to eradicate extreme poverty will range from US\$ 135 billion to 195 billion every two years. Investments required in critical infrastructure including transport, energy, water and sanitation are estimated to cost between US\$ 5 to 7 trillion annually. In Africa, the financing gap for infrastructure is nearly 95 billion dollars per year. The unmet credit needs for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are estimated to be around US\$ 2.5 trillion in developing countries and about US\$ 3.5 trillion globally.

Technology development and transfer as well as capacity-building will be critical to achieving many of the SDGs once adopted. We need to find ways of addressing the significant challenges being faced by many developing countries in accessing, adapting and diffusing environmentally sound technology, through a facilitation mechanism. This is an important issue that impacts socio-economic development and environmental protection.

It is therefore clear that the resources required are enormous and will have to be mobilized from all sources; domestic and external, public and private. That is the work that is cut out for us in this thematic debate and over the coming months. We will need a renewed global partnership for development.

The positive news is that emerging patterns of resource flows show significant opportunities for mobilizing the financing needed to support the achievement of sustainable development. The global savings, including foreign exchange reserves, remain robust at about US\$ 22 trillion a year, inclusive of

public and private sources. We need to devise the right policies, measures and instruments that can incentivize the channelling of some of these resources towards financing sustainable development.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,**

Mobilization of increased domestic resources will be critical for implementing the new agenda. A variety of innovative measures and actions should be considered to increase revenue collection, improve budget efficiency, combat corruption, tax avoidance and illicit financial flows. Greater efforts will also be required to create an enabling environment for increased domestic and foreign direct investment. In addition, we need to find ways of tapping into the resources that pension funds and capital markets can provide, and reduce the cost of remittances.

International public finance remains an important source for many developing countries and is critical for financing global public goods.

It is important to ensure that Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments are fulfilled and that the resources are effectively utilized and leveraged as catalytic financing. The international financial institutions and regional development banks will need to be more responsive to supporting countries to access resources, especially long-term financing for infrastructure at affordable rates, in order to implement the new development agenda. We also need to give attention to the increasing complex sovereign debt situation, which is affecting many developing, as well as some of developed countries.

We have to find ways of increasing the private sector's participation in the implementation of the new agenda. The role of the private sector is critical given that in many developing countries it provides employment for about 70-90% of the workforce, and contributes about 60% of GDP.

Currently, only a small portion of invested assets of banks, pension funds, insurance companies and transnational corporations worldwide are in areas related to SDGs. While businesses are keen on profit and shareholder value, ways can be found to incentivize their contribution to achieving sustainable development, building on the work being done by UN Global Compact and other initiatives.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships with civil society, academia, and philanthropic organizations, among others will also play an important role in realizing the SDGs as a key component of the new agenda. We need to build on and expand successful initiatives such as GAVI, and optimize the contribution of Foundations and other stakeholders.

We also have to harness and optimize the contribution of trade as an engine for sustained economic growth and development. A universal, open, and equitable trading system is essential to facilitate market access, especially for developing countries. In this regard, greater political commitment will be required to conclude the Doha Round of trade negotiations.

**Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,**

Parliaments, cities and local governments will play an important role in the successful implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, including by ensuring accountability for meeting different commitments at the national level.

Given their vital role in providing basic social services to citizens, cities and local authorities will also be critical to meeting many of our sustainable development objectives, including those related to health, education, water and sanitation.

With negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda already underway, the clock is ticking for us to formulate a transformative agenda and have it ready for adoption this September by our Heads of State and Government.

As we have said all along, the new agenda must make a significant, positive impact on people's lives around the world. I look forward to the exchange of ideas, proposals and recommendations over the next two days, on how to ensure that our ambitious development aspirations are matched with adequate means of implementation.

I thank you for your kind attention.

10 February 2015

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Sam Kahamba Kutesa,
President of the 69th Session of the General Assembly,
at the Closing of the High-Level thematic debate on “Means of
implementation for a transformative post-2015 development agenda”**

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Speakers and Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We have come to the end of this High-Level debate on “Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 development agenda”.

In our discussions over the last day and a half, valuable proposals and recommendations were made on what actions, measures and policies we need to collectively take to mobilize the resources required for the implementation of the new development agenda.

Many speakers reflected on the need to accelerate efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the remaining period and carry forward the “unfinished business” into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Participants stressed the need to create coherence and synergy between the three major intergovernmental processes currently underway; the post-2015 development agenda negotiations, the discussions on financing for development and efforts to reach a new climate change agreement.

Speakers emphasized the need for a renewed global partnership to address the needs of the ambitious new development framework. Participants underscored that bold steps must be taken to mobilize adequate means of implementation, including financing, technology development and transfer, and capacity building.

Many stressed the need for a holistic approach to ensure adequate means of implementation were mobilized from all sources; public and private, domestic and international.

Domestic resource mobilization will be key, including efforts to strengthen domestic investment, broaden tax bases and create transparent and accountable institutions, while also limiting tax evasion and curbing corruption and illicit flows.

Many speakers called for the fulfilment of Official Development Aid (ODA) commitments and scaling them up, whenever possible. Several participants called for reform of international financial institutions and others stressed the need for ensuring sovereign sustainability.

The need for a fair, rules-based international trading regime was underscored, with calls for conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations. Putting in place measures, policies and an enabling environment for attracting domestic and foreign investments was emphasized.

The private sector was highlighted as an important development partner, although stronger policies would need to be put into place both domestically and internationally to promote greater private sector contributions to sustainable development.

Distinguished Delegates,

In the panel on “Infrastructure Development in the post-2015 development agenda and Partnerships for realizing the SDGs”, speakers highlighted the critical importance of ensuring that the resources needed for infrastructure investment in energy, transport, water and sanitation, health and education sectors were scaled up.

Speakers noted that a huge financing gap for infrastructure remained, even though at the global level, sufficient liquidity exists. Proposals were made on how to channel these funds, in particular, from insurance funds, pension funds and sovereign wealth funds, into infrastructure.

In the second panel on “The Role of Parliaments, Cities and Local Authorities in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda”, speakers discussed the important development role of parliaments, given their ability to enact laws and hold other parts of government accountable for prioritizing budgets and monitoring policy implementation.

Speakers noted the important role that cities and local authorities play in providing basic services and addressing issues such as crime, unemployment, and environmental degradation. The need for ensuring that cities and local authorities have adequate resources to fulfil their responsibilities was highlighted.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

A President’s Summary of the proposed actions, measures, policies and recommendations made by Member States and all stakeholders at this debate will be prepared and circulated by 18 February, which will serve as a useful contribution to the FfD preparatory process and the post-2015 development agenda negotiations.

Immediately following the conclusion of this High-Level debate, a side event hosted by UNCTAD will take place on, “Marking the Sustainable Development Goals Work: Harnessing Trade, Investment, Finance and Technology for Sustainable Development”.

Later this afternoon, a second side-event hosted by UN-Habitat on “The Future of Cities: An Integrated Approach to Urban Challenges” will also take place.

I thank you for your kind attention.