



AUSTRALIA



Australian Mission to the United Nations

E-mail australia@un.int

150 East 42nd Street, New York NY 10017-5612 Ph 212 - 351 6600 Fax 212 - 351 6610 www.AustraliaUN.org

13 April 2015

Financing for Development (Second Drafting Session): Australian key messages for the second negotiation session

Statement delivered by Ms Harinder Sidhu

Australian Mission to the United Nations, New York

(Check against delivery)

Co-facilitators,

Australia commends both co-facilitators for their guidance to date and the work of the Secretariat in putting together the zero draft. We also wish to reiterate our appreciation to the Government of Ethiopia for its ongoing efforts to ensure a successful conference in Addis Ababa in July.

For the Addis outcome to be a success it must build on the elements of the Monterrey Consensus that set up a successful financing framework for the Millennium Development Goals. It must equip all countries to meet the development financing challenges of the future, rather than being stuck in the past. And it must build confidence for the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

To do this, we are seeking an outcome that:

- Is practical and policy-relevant – it must provide genuine and clear guidance to governments on how to attain financing goals
- Is simple and comprehensible to policymakers

- Builds confidence for the SDGs by providing clear commitments and deliverables that are implementable. While we would support including commitments that are a stretch, it would equally erode trust and confidence in the outcome if countries committed to goals that they cannot meet.
- Balances the focus on financing inputs with the delivery of real and sustainable development outcomes.

Set against these objectives, Australia considers that the zero draft is a good start. But it also needs further work to ensure we meet these goals.

On simplicity and clarity, we would like to see a shorter draft.

On confidence building, commitments and deliverables, we think there are many areas where further refinement is possible. One area is to further strengthen the draft's already good language on the importance of gender equality to delivering strong development outcomes.

And on achieving sustainable development outcomes, Australia considers first and foremost that the Addis outcome should form the MOI outcome for the post-2015 framework, and that there should be a single and simple process for monitoring and follow up, rather than duplicated processes.

We welcome the focus on the four key initiatives laid out by the co-facilitators, particularly on infrastructure investment and on agriculture. We need to do more thinking on how to deliver the flexibility needed for success, particularly around domestic resource mobilisation, tax cooperation and social safety nets. We must be clear about the objectives we are seeking to meet here and how to meet them.

We should also focus on the role that Multilateral Development Banks play and the importance of safeguards in achieving sustainable development outcomes.

And finally we welcome the growth of South-South cooperation as a further contribution to sustainable development outcomes. We encourage greater transparency to build confidence that we are all working effectively toward the same goals.

We look forward to the discussion and hearing from both member states and a range of civil society and business sector actors as we continue this process.

In the interests of time, we will aim to keep our interventions brief but will be handing up written comments to reflect our thoughts and suggestions.

Thank you.