

Third International Conference on
Financing for Development
2nd Drafting Session

New Zealand statement

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13 April 2015

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New Zealand welcomes this opportunity to comment on the zero draft of the Outcome Document for the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development.

We congratulate the co-facilitators on their efforts, which have resulted in an excellent zero draft.

There are four points that we wish to make.

First, while we are pleased to see reference to the particular challenges facing countries in special circumstances, including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, we would prefer to see better differentiation of the particular financing challenges faced by each of these groups.

We consider that the vulnerabilities faced by SIDS, and the small size of SIDS' economies, present particular challenges that are not adequately recognised in the zero draft.

The lack of a credit rating for many SIDS mean that, unlike much larger economies, SIDS have very limited access to international private finance. They need access to concessional resources, particularly when addressing external shocks and the impact of natural disasters.

The outcome document could note that many developing countries, including LDCs, are able to access international private financing for development needs, and recognise that some countries, especially SIDS, will not be able to do so without international action.

Second, the document does not recognise the significant health and economic challenges that non-communicable diseases pose for all member States, but in particular for SIDS.

Non-communicable diseases place an enormous economic burden on SIDS due to the very high costs of treatment; these costs are particularly challenging given the limited resources available within SIDS economies, and they constrain countries' ability to invest in other important dimensions of sustainable development.

We propose including reference to taxation measures which not only serve as a deterrent to consumption, but also augment the domestic resource base.

Third, we are pleased to see emphasis in the zero draft on the importance of sustainable energy but would like to see greater recognition given to the importance of renewable energy solutions.

Finally, we are pleased to see reference throughout the document to empowering women and girls and achieving gender equality and to the particular needs of children and of persons living with disabilities.

However, we would like to see more explicit reference to responding to the particular challenges of indigenous peoples and of older people in the document.

I thank you.