

Excellencies and Colleagues,

Good afternoon and thank you for coming for this briefing session on logistical arrangement for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation under way in Ethiopia in this regard.

Excellencies,

Let me preface my statement on the preparation we are making, I might add, with great support from DESA and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), by reiterating what we have said many times: We see this opportunity given to us to host FfD three as a great honour for which we are grateful to all member states. As many have said, the preparation for this conference is in a way unprecedented, in the sense that never in the history of such big international conferences, has the period of preparation been as short as the time for the preparation for FFD Three has been. We realize fully that the opportunity made available carries with it enormous obligation, all the more so in light of the significance of the conference within the overall context of the post-2015 Development Agenda and also because it is a curtain raiser for the two other major events that define the year 2015 — the September Summit and COP 21 in December in Paris. Of course, this is also the year we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

It is with full awareness of all this that the Government of Ethiopia has taken up its responsibility as the host of the FFD three, with a great sense of responsibility. Accordingly, our Government has taken many significant measures focusing on the setting up of mechanisms to ensure all aspects of the logistics of the conference are handled as effectively as possible and in a way that would ensure the smooth handling of the conference, with all the necessary attention given to the convenience of participants; all participants, I might add.

The first action by the Government in this regard was to establish an Inter-ministerial National Committee led by the Ethiopia Finance Minister. The National Committee, on its part, has set up two sub-committees, one dealing with substantive matters, the other with logistical and related matters, particularly with issues related to hospitality. Both Sub-committees are also chaired by State Ministers of Finance and the Foreign Ministry, respectively.

In order to ensure the effective discharge of their responsibilities, both the National Committee and the Sub-Committees, in particular, the Sub-Committee on logistics, have been given the mandate to mobilize all government institutions with functions that have bearing on the preparation and the holding of the conference.

In general terms, the road map of our preparation contains key factors, such as easy and convenient facilitation of visa and customs formalities, ensuring the availability of conference facilities for all meetings, plenary, Round Tables, side events, including business forum; CSO forums. We are also organizing an Ethiopian village as well as an exhibition. With respect to hotel accommodation, I should underline, there is sufficient accommodation capable of catering to 5,000 to 7000 participants and guests. Transport will be provided between hotels and the conference centre and everything will be done, as we will see a little later, to ensure customs and visa formalities are handled without too much difficulty. In all this, the national committee and the logistical sub-committee are working in close collaboration with UNECA as well as UN DESA. A serious assessment has been made on the requirement of the conference and gaps are identified and now the government, in collaboration with the UNECA, is close to meeting all the requirements for holding of a successful conference. Let it be underlined that Ethiopia has had a long experience of hosting international conferences, some of which have been as big as FFD Three.

II. Let me now focus on the various items in greater detail, starting with the conference and meeting facilities.

Official Meetings

All plenary, Round table and Main Committee, as required, meetings will be held at ECA conference centre which is built by the UN in accordance with UN Standard and where most of the offices of UN agencies are located. The

compound's security is ensured by UN security in the same fashion as this matters are handled by the UN. To raise the capacity of the venue, additional work has been done to ensure full and effective participation of member states.

Side Events

Most of the side events of the conference will be held in hotels around the ECA compound within five minutes reach. So far, more than 200 side events are registered. We have secured enough meeting rooms to accommodate all the side events. Our colleagues from the Secretariat might wish to comment on this further.

Business Forum

We have been working with ICC (International Chamber of Commerce) and its members and some bilateral countries to make the business forum a success by attracting high level CEO's during the conference and it is planned to hold the meeting on the 14th of July at Hilton hotel. The preparation is advancing well. Organizing this Forum is very important and participation of member states on this forum creates opportunity for governments and key participants from the private sector to interact with each other and discuss how to fully engage the private sector on sustainable development and also listen to the private sector views and needs from governments.

CSO Forum:

We believe this conference should be as inclusive as possible and the role of CSO is very important in attaining the objective of SDGs. Thus there will be CSO forum on July 11 and 12 and the host country is working with the CSO representatives to ensure the success of the forum

III. Specific logistical matters:

Accommodation:

We would like to assure member states that the country has ensured sufficient accommodation for participants, with the anticipation that up to 7000 participants will be coming to Addis for the conference. There should be absolutely no concern in this regard.

In Addis Ababa there are many hotels that can provide standardised accommodation for all participants and there are more than enough rooms that can comfortably accommodate more than 7000 participants. Ethiopia has hosted several thousand international conferences since the early 60s and Addis is increasingly becoming a hub for international conferences. Addis Ababa is a host for many international organizations including African Union, UN ECA, UNDP Regional service, more than 26 UN resident and non-resident offices, large diplomatic community and many others which makes the city one of those cities with high level presence of the diplomatic community.

To ensure more than sufficient accommodation is ensured for conference participants and for the convenience of participants during their stay, close coordination and consultations with the management of hotels has been conducted during the past months, and this coordination and consultation will continue up to and during the conference.

To ensure all high level delegates of member states are equitably, fairly and hospitably treated the government has taken the initiative in making block room reservation for the high level delegates at the head of State and Government level as well as ministerial delegates at the hotels surrounding ECA, including Sheraton Addis, Hilton Addis, Ellily Hotel, Intercontinental hotel, Radisson blue, Capital Hotels.

What member state now need to do is send the list of delegates at the Head of State and Government level and ministerial level to the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chief protocol office, as indicated in the delegates hand book posted on the ffD website.. Then the Ministry of foreign Affairs will work out the details and inform member states so that they can proceed finalizing their online registrations.

For the remaining members of delegations, member states can directly make bookings with the remaining hotels listed in the Hand Book. Let me underline here the referred to Hand Book, with the attachments, contains all the necessary information on all issues mentioned in this Presentation.

If any member states have difficulty of getting accommodation with the hotels they want to register online at, they are advised to contact one of the following focal points of the accommodation committee indicated in the hand book to get support:

Mr. Yemane Asfaw asfawyemane@yahoo.com

Mr Amha Haile Georgis amhahailegeorgis@yahoo.com

Mr. Mubarek Nuru mubararekethiopia@gmail.com

Mrs Tsion Girma protocol@mfa.gov.et

IV. Transport

Vehicles will be assigned for the head of States and governments as well as heads of delegations as specified in the hand book.

For other delegations transport will be provided from airport to the various locations/ hotels which will be specified and posted on the FFD website. Bus shuttle service from hotels to conference venue and back to the hotels will be provided only in the morning and at the end of the meetings.

V. Visa

All participants should secure their visa. Our responsibility is to make the process as easy as possible.

Participants coming from where there are Ethiopian Embassies and Missions are advised to get their visa prior to their departure.

Participants coming from where there are no Ethiopian Embassies, will get their visa on arrival. To facilitate boarding planes from these countries by fulfilling some airlines requirements, government of Ethiopia will issue letters confirming participants will be getting visa on arrival. Participants may be required to have both accreditation notification from the UN accreditation center and the letter from the government of Ethiopia during departure.

A Participant with Diplomatic passport, Service Pass port and UN lassie passé will not be required to pay visa fee.

Other participants will be required to pay 30\$ visa fee

VI. Various matters

As a host country, the government has invited all Heads of State and Government, Ministers of Finance and Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation and Heads of International Organization.

Accreditation and badges will be provided at the Millennium hall and bus shuttle service will be provided for participants.

Concerning catering, a dedicated area will be kept aside for VIPs and a food court will also be established at UNECA for other delegates;
Ethiopian village and exhibition is one of the events that will be demonstrated throughout the conference period;

Ethiopian airline is proposing to start direct flight from New York to Addis Ababa depending on the interests of participants to address some challenges of travel.

The government has closely working with the planning team at UN Head Quarter and the local team at UNECA in Addis Ababa;

The Delegate's handbook has been posted on the UN website. We would reiterate that it would be very useful to inform all member states to consult the delegate's handbook;

VII. Concluding Remark

Let me conclude by assuring Excellencies and Dear colleagues that you can count on our fullest cooperation to ensure that yours participation and that of your high-level participants will be smooth and problem-free. On our part we count on you to ensure the pre-presentation of your respective countries at the highest level possible.

Thank you.